A good essay will have a strong **thesis** (no I's, me's or my's), **accurate** (note: you can often find examples in the test itself) and **sufficient support (2 to 3 accurate and well thought out examples should be sufficient**) with a **conclusion** that refers back to the support.  An excellent essay will explore how religion and politics were at times blended to lead to outcomes. A strong thesis takes a position.

Example

*Take a position that can be argued*- Darien is the best school system in Ct

*Elaborate how you will prove that example*- because a higher percentage of students graduate HS and attend college than any other school system in Connecticut, the lion's share attend colleges that are ranked amongst the best in the nation and it's extracurricular activities in both athletics and the arts regularly win awards